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Ruth Montalvo — 19 June 02 Date

Docket No.:GK-ZEI-3153/500343.20154

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gunter MOEHLER and Rolf-Gero RAU et al

Serial No.: 10/049,802

Filed: February 15, 2002

For: RECOGNITION OF THE MAXIMUM POSITION OF A REVOLVING DIAL OR SLIDE ON MICROSCOPES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to receipt of a first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Cancel the present specification and substitute therefor the enclosed substitute specification.

IN THE CLAIMS

Page 3, line 1, change "Patent Claims" to –What is claimed is--.

Cancel claims 1 and add new claim 2, reading as follows:

--2. (New) A method for detecting the maximum quantity of possible positions of an exchangeable nosepiece or slide in a microscope system comprising the steps of:

starting from an initial position which corresponds to a first position, adjusting the maximum position;

comparing this maximum position to a position registered in a memory; and

storing the results of the comparison.--

IN THE ABSTRACT

Cancel the present Abstract and substitute therefor the enclosed Abstract which is attached to the substitute specification.

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced by new claim 2.

The amendments to the claim have been made only to improve the form of the claims for examination purposes.

The specification and abstract have been amended to conform it to U.S. format.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 19, 2002
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Enc.: Substitute Specification
Abstract
Marked-up/Bolded Versions

Customer No.	**026418**	
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		
Attorney's Docket No.:	**GK-ZEI-3153 / 500343.20154**	
U.S. Application No.:	**10/049,802**	
International Application No.:	**PCT/EP01/07768**	
International Filing Date:	**JULY 06, 2001**	**06 JULY 2001**
Priority Date Claimed:	**JULY 06, 2000**	**06 JULY 2000**
Title of Invention:	**RECOGNITION OF THE MAXIMUM POSITION OF A REVOLVING DIAL OR SLIDE ON MICROSCOPES**	
Applicant(s) for (DO/EO/US):	**Gunter MOEHLER and Rolf-Gero RAU**	

MARKED-UP/BOLDED VERSIONS OF THE SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT

Docket No.: GK-ZEI-3153/500343.20154

RECOGNITION OF THE MAXIMUM POSITION OF A REVOLVING DIAL OR SLIDE ON MICROSCOPES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority of International Application No. PCT/EP01/07768, filed July 6, 2001 and German Application No. 100 32 395.2, filed July 6, 2000, the complete disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

a) Field of the Invention

Nosepieces or slides, for example, for holding different objectives that are swung into or slid into the beam path, are coded in their individual positions, i.e., every position has a readable code. The coding can be carried out by means of micro-feelers or, optically, by means of reflection couplers or, magnetically, by means of Hall sensors.

b) Description of the Related Art and Recognition of Prior Art Shortcomings

When using Hall sensors, for example, every position is assigned a binary-coded quantity of magnets in a row which uniquely describe the position.

In every scanning position, these magnets are located across from the Hall sensors and can be detected. With exchangeable nosepiece units, e.g., motor-driven objective nosepieces (MOR) or manual objective nosepieces, there are different nosepieces with, e.g., 4, 5, 6 positions. Formerly, detection by the microprocessor was achieved via additional lines characterizing the quantity of

maximum positions, or a value for the quantity of maximum positions was stored in the microprocessor.

When the nosepiece with 5 positions is replaced by a nosepiece with 6 positions, depending on the construction of the microscope, the internal control unit must recognize what type is installed so that it can be reported to the software and display. The disadvantage in known constructions consists in the additional wiring from the nosepiece, through the stand wiring, to the control electronics and the interrogation of the latter through corresponding port pins of the microprocessor.

The nosepiece type is permanently entered in the program without additional cable. However, modification would result in a change in the firmware.

Moreover, when the nosepiece type is stored in the microprocessor as a parameter, a suitable input device is required in every case (e.g., PC → download). Another possibility consists in keys or buttons on the microscope. This requires a display for checking the input. **[In order to overcome these disadvantages, according to the invention, only the existing position coding is required.]**

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

In order to overcome these disadvantages, according to the invention, only the existing position coding is required.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 illustrates a flow chart of the process in accordance with the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Every nosepiece or slide has a coded position detection arrangement. In order to store the maximum anticipated position as a parameter in the firmware of the microprocessor when changing the nosepiece, the new nosepiece is slid in and the position detection arrangement is connected to the microprocessor. With a

manual nosepiece, the detection of the maximum position is carried out in that the nosepiece is mounted in the initial position 1 as provided according to mounting instructions.

The maximum position is adjusted when the microscope is switched on by rotating the nosepiece back by one position. The microprocessor detects the current position and compares it to the maximum position entered in the memory (see flow chart). When the current position ( ) is not the same as the maximum position and is greater than 2, the current position is entered into the system parameters as maximum position. The greater-than-2 test is needed so that no incorrect value is determined for detection in the event that rotation is carried out in the wrong direction. In this case, nothing is entered in the system parameters. With motor-driven nosepieces, the process is carried out in the same way: after installation, the nosepiece is manually rotated backwards from position 1 to the maximum position. The input into the system parameters is carried out in the same way as was described above. With linear slides, the same procedure is followed: the device is switched to position 1 and the slide is slid into the maximum position.

The maximum position is detected and inputted in the system parameters as was described above. Input is conditional upon the slide remaining in this position at least for a certain time (e.g., 3s).

Fig. 1 shows the described process schematically in a flow chart. This process must be incorporated in the application in such a way that it is run through cyclically (e.g., more than once a second).

Accordingly, the disadvantages of the prior art are alleviated by only requiring the existing pulse coding.

While the foregoing description and drawings represent the present invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made therein without departing from the true spirit and scope of the present invention.

MARKED-UP/BOLDED SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION & ABSTRACT

Abstract **of the Disclosure**

A **[M]m**ethod for detecting the maximum quantity of possible positions of an exchangeable nosepiece or slide in a microscope system **is disclosed**. **The method comprises the steps of:** **[S]s**tarting from an initial position which corresponds to a first position, **adjusting** the maximum position**; [is adjusted.] [This] comparing the** maximum position **[is compared with] to** a position registered in a memory**;** and **storing** the results of the comparison **[are stored]**.